



Last time

Exam 2

This time

Exam 2 results

Signed languages (aka sign languages)

Assignment 1

March 16 ← you have a few extra days now

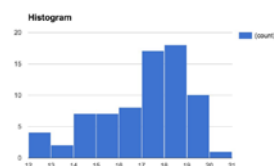
Look at calendar

We are done with the workbook!

Exam Results

40 questions, .5 each, 20 point max
Average = $16.85/20 = 84.25$

Range by Percent
90 to 100 29 people
80 to 89 25
70 to 79 14
60 to 69 6
Below 60 0
(n = 74)



The third phase of this course

8	3/7 EXAM 2 3/9 Signed languages	CL 15	
9	3/14 <u>First language acquisition</u> 3/16 <u>Second language acquisition</u>	CL 10 CL 11	Dalia Magana Assignment 1 due
10	3/21 <u>Gesture</u> 3/23 <u>Writing systems</u>	CL 16	Ayime Tomson
*	No class 3/28 & 3/30	SPRING BREAK	
11	4/4 <u>Psycholinguistics</u> 4/6 <u>Analytical tools, discourse</u>	CL 12	Qana David
12	4/11 EXAM 3 4/13 <u>Neurolinguistics</u>	CL 13	

Assignment 1 COGS 5 UC Merced

Language analysis report.

In groups of two or three (or alone if you like), you will analyze a human language that does not include sign languages, languages from science fiction, or any of the following:

English, German, Catalan, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Standard Arabic, Hebrew, Greek, Persian, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Latin, Finnish, Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese), Vietnamese, Russian, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, Turkish, Irish, **Afrikaans** ALSO: No "dead" languages

You will also have to give a short presentation on this language in section. You will need to create a poster/ppt for this. OK to use the web or other resources available through the library. Your report must have these sections:

1. General information.

- How many speakers of the language?
- Where is the language used? What region in the world?
- How many words in the lexicon more or less? (If you can get this information)

2. **Language family.** What language family does your language belong to? What are some other languages in the same family? [Example: English is a Germanic language. Other Germanic languages include German, Swedish, and Danish.]

3. **Sound system.** Use tables like the ones in the textbook to show a) the vowels and b) the consonants. Report other interesting things about the language. For instance, are there tones (like in Chinese or Thai)? Does it have "exotic" characteristics such as creaky voice or clicks, etc.?

(continued)

Analysis of LAKOTA
COGS 5
 Date _____
 Group members: NAME, NAME

1. General information.

a. Number of speakers of Lakota: 2,000
 b. Location of Lakota: North and South Dakota, US
 c. Words in the lexicon: Not available

2. Language family.

Language family is Siouan

Other languages in the same family: Crow, Mandan, Dakotan, Hidatsa

(continued)

How to respond to these questions
 NOT AN ESSAY! BE CONCISE.
 Should read like a technical report
 See example below for Lakota

3. Sound system. The language has seven vowels, as shown in the table below.

Vowel Inventory

		Front	Central	Back
high	oral	i		u
	nasal	ĩ		ũ
mid		e		o
low	oral		a	
	nasal		ã	

(continued)

6. Basic color terms. There are nine basic color terms in Lakota.


Black	sapa
White	ska
Gray	xota
Blue and Green	to
Red	sa
Yellow	zi
Orange	zisa
Purple	stanka
Brown	gi

(continued)

Signed language
 (aka signed languages)

Dancing traffic cop

Not what sign language is!




What is sign language?

QUOTE FROM ARTICLE BY SHERMAN WILCOX, LEADING EXPERT ON SIGN LANGUAGES – University of New Mexico
 "Moving beyond structuralism: Usage-based signed language linguistics"

Sign language is **NOT** just a collections of gestures

One pervasive misunderstanding, held throughout much of history, is that signed languages are merely depictive gestures and not linguistically structured. Signed languages are not simply holistic gestures. There is, however, a complex relationship between signed languages and gesture that scholars are only now beginning to understand (Armstrong, Stokoe, & Wilcox, 1995; Wilcox 2004, 2007; Wilcox & Wilcox, 2009). As we will see, this includes a diachronic relationship by which gestures become incorporated into the linguistic system of a signed language.

We'll be talking about gesture later in the semester



What are sign languages?

They are *natural languages*

Like spoken languages, they have
syntax, morphology, lexicon, phonology
tense, anaphora, word compounds,
assimilation

They have rules

They naturally evolve over time

They occur in language families



Many different sign languages

Hundreds of them, spoken on all continents

ASL (American sign language)

somewhat related to French sign language

BSL (British sign language) ← not related to ASL

Tunisian sign language

Hong Kong sign language

Sicilian sign language

American Sign Language (ASL)

You can see/learn 100 basic signs in American Sign Language

<http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/concepts.htm>



"grandpa"



"dad"



Spoken versus signed?

Spoken languages happen serially

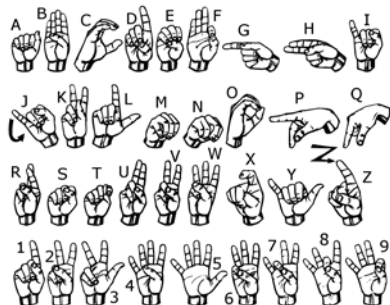
Linguistic units (sounds, words, etc.) follow each other, one after the other

Sign language is **more simultaneous** than spoken

More information is blended at the same time



Finger spelling ASL



Four weddings and funeral

translation of BSL *British Signed Language* into English



Language community

Signers have their own language community

Important:

Sign languages are like spoken languages but not derived from them



Who is deaf in the US?

Answer: It depends on what you mean by "deaf"
stats from Galludet university <http://research.galludet.edu/Demographics/deaf-US.php>

In the United States, there are about **1,000,000** people over the age of 5 who are functionally deaf

Note: over half of these people are over 65

Who uses signed language?

About **70 million people** worldwide have learned a signed language as their native "tongue"

There are approximately **300 sign languages** worldwide

Hard to give precise number because new languages constantly emerge, especially **pidgin*** languages

* **Pidgins** are new languages that emerge (often when two cultures and languages come into contact) -> they mix grammar and words from different sources. Sometimes (but not always) they become "real" languages

Gallaudet

Thomas Gallaudet, 1787-1851

In 1817, Gallaudet founded the first school for the deaf in the US. It was located in Hartford, Connecticut.

He was a pioneer for education of the deaf

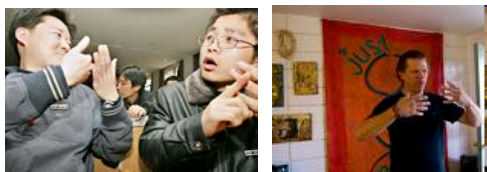


Gallaudet University started in 1864
Located in Washington, DC
Enrollment -> has about 1,400 students

Old school views of signing

Signing wasn't considered real language until the last few decades (late 1900s)

Signs were incorrectly viewed as gestures that non-hearing people needed to use because they can't talk



Old school views

Often, the general public assumed that languages were "just" one of these:

a system of **emblematic gestures**

conventionalized signs that stand for something, like "ok" sign



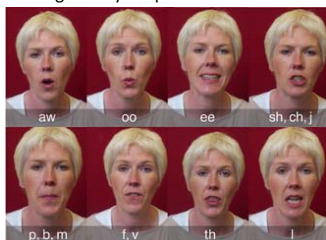
a system of **iconic gestures**

signs that look like or resemble something, like "drawing" a curvy line in the air to show a windy road

Old school views

1800s/early 1900s:

Deaf people not allowed to use sign language in school, forced to learn lip reading and try to speak



Old school views

So, many **negative outcomes** for non-hearing people not did not learn to sign

no community
felt isolated
difficulty expressing information



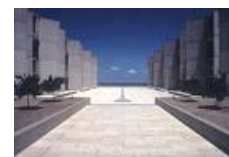
Marlee Maitlin

Only deaf actress who has won an Academy award – Best Actress in a leading role



In recent times

Luckily, research by Ursula Bellugi and others over the past 25 years shows that sign language **IS** real language



Well-known sign language researcher, Salk Institute in La Jolla, CA.

Signing

Signers use actual space to describe where things are and how events happen

They set up their bodies and the space around them to show who is doing what, as well as when and where things happen



Signing

Hand shape is very important

Every sign language has its own “library” of hand shapes. These shapes can indicate things like

- size and shape of object
- object itself
- how objects move
- how objects relate to other objects



These convey meaning in systematic ways

Assimilation in sign languages

Very common, makes signing more fluid. Good examples are seen with compounds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kckORXoQUU>

1. EAT+MORNING = Breakfast

2. GOOD+ENOUGH = Adequate

3. MONEY+BEHIND = Reserve funds



Facial expressions are important

They express intensity, curiosity, emphasis, emotion, etc.



Signing

facial expressions

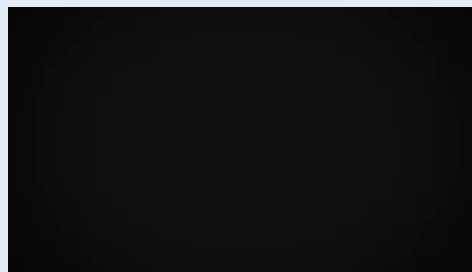


WH questions include words like “how”, “who”, “when”, etc.

Asking questions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3dWaPwAWbw>

NMS = Non-manual signals like facial movements



Sentence structure in ASL

English speakers learning ASL often communicate by putting ASL signs into English word order (SVO) ← called Signed English

ASL word order is more flexible than English word order



Other things:

No verb "to be" in ASL
No articles, no "the", no "a"

Just humans?

Gorillas can learn to use signs fairly well

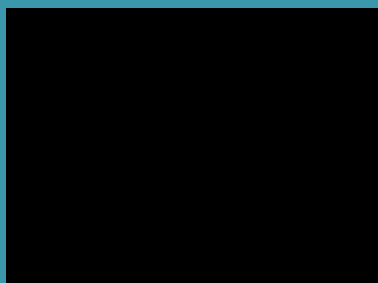
Koko, a Western lowland gorilla, born 1971

Knows about 1,000 ASL signs, learned from a human



Koko learns a new sign "butterfly"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U64k_fA2Rcc



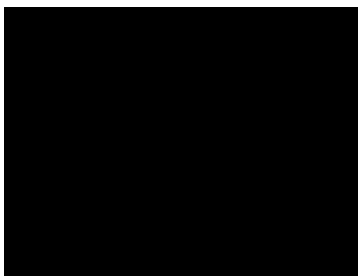
Koko showing emotion in sign

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWxCM6ILL60>



If you want additional info about Koko 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apAB848FMkk>



Next time

Language acquisition